

June 9, 2000

## FACT SHEET

### Adult, Families and Children

#### ***POPULATION - ADES Population Projections - 2000***

Arizona 4,961,953  
Maricopa County 2,954,157 (59.54%)

#### ***ETHNICITY - 1995 U. S. Special Census***

ETHNIC GROUP	CHILDREN UNDER 5	CHILDREN 5-17	ADULTS 18-59	TOTAL
White	47,419	157,133	419,339	623,891
Hispanic	39,754	105,165	142,349	287,268
African-American	5,552	3,342	28,492	37,836
Native American	1,874	5,727	9,389	16,990
Asian Pacific-Islander	1,705	5,505	12,249	19,459
Other	1,166	2,760	4,184	8,110

#### ***FAMILY STATUS - AZ Department of Health Services***

Marriages 1999 24,223 marriages in Maricopa County  
Divorces 1999 13,216 divorces and annulments in Maricopa County

#### ***HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION - 1995 U. S. Special Census***

Married with Children 253,230 households  
Single with Children 138,140 households  
Married No Children 227,502 households  
Single No Children 35,746 households

#### ***ECONOMIC STATUS***

- Projected job growth for 2000 is 3.8%; with an anticipated unemployment rate of 4.2%. The service sector is projected to be the largest provider of new jobs (ASU

Center for Business Research, May 2000).

- The average annual income for the Phoenix metro area in 1998 was \$44,205 (ASU Center for Business Research, May 2000). This income is 6% higher than the national average, but spending in this area was 6% higher than the national average. Expenditures on transportation and housing were greater than the national average.
- Income disparity - In Arizona, the gap between the richest fifth of families was more than 11 times greater than that of the bottom fifth. Arizona ranked second in the nation in the gap between the richest fifth and poorest fifth; and first in the nation in income gap between the richest fifth and the middle fifth (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 1/18/00).
- 70% of poor children live in families where at least one parent works (Children's Defense Fund).
- In 1998, only 1 in 4 jobs obtained by former welfare recipients paid above-poverty level wages (Children's Defense Fund).
- An estimated 18.1% of Arizonans live in poverty, representing 891,207 people. Nearly 1 in three of these individuals are children (296,088), with almost one-third (27.5%) under the age of 5 (ADES through the Association of Arizona Food Banks).
- Poverty level for a family of 3 in 2000 is \$14,140; for a family of 4 it is \$17,050.
- Barriers to self-sufficiency include: housing, low wage jobs, lack of health insurance, transportation and child care (Arizona Community Action Association).

## ***HEALTH***

- Low birth weight babies (under 2 pounds) experience significant learning disabilities through adolescence (NY Times, 2/8/00).
- 3,613 low birth weight babies were born in Maricopa County in 1999 (ADHS)
- 19,104 babies were born to unwed mothers in Maricopa County in 1999 - 7,170 to women under the age of 19; 57 to girls under the age of 15.
- There were 6,502 abortions in Maricopa County in 1999; 30.6% to women between 20-24 and 24% to women between 25-29; only 7.5% were to girls under the age of 18.
- Health insurance coverage is offered less and less by employers - especially those workers at the bottom one-fifth of the wage scale (Children's Defense Fund).
- 22,348 people died in Maricopa County in 1999 - heart disease and cancer were the leading causes of death.

## ***HIV/AIDS***

- 182 cases of AIDS were reported in 1998 in Maricopa County.
- New drugs called protease inhibitors have dramatically changed the life expectancy of persons with HIV/AIDS, reducing the number of deaths from the disease.
- There is an increase in the number of minorities reporting HIV and AIDS, accounting for 45% of the 331 HIV cases in 1999, as compared with 29% in 1989 (Arizona Republic, June 10, 2000).

## ***HUNGER***

- ▶ Food banks in Maricopa County distributed 529,033 food boxes in 1998-1999, representing 61,858,381 pounds of food. This is an 18% increase from last year.
- ▶ 31 million Americans are hungry or on the edge of hunger, including 13.6 million children. Low wages and drops in Food Stamp participation rates are credited. Arizona's food stamp participation dropped 34.9% between November 1996-November 1999. (<http://www.frac.org/html/news/stateofstates99.html>)
- ▶ 94,194 households in Arizona received food stamps in January 2000. This equates to 254,044 people, with an average per household allotment of \$204.56, and an average per person allotment of \$75.85 (DES website).
- ▶ Approximately 637,263 Arizonans who are living in poverty and eligible for food stamps do not receive them (ADES through the Association of Arizona Food Banks).
- ▶ The Arizona Association of Food Banks profiles recipients of food boxes: 41% have someone employed; 58% are children or elderly; 34% are headed by a single parent; those who were employed worked in unskilled or service industries; in the past year, 43% had to choose between paying rent or buying food.

## ***HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS***

- ▶ In a booming economy, approximately 2.3 million adults and children are likely to become homeless during the year. Rising housing costs, increasing poverty and other vulnerabilities are credited. (The Urban Institute, February 1, 2000)
- ▶ The Urban Institute Survey found that:
  - \*There are seasonal variations in homelessness;
  - \*Homelessness has increased since 1987;
  - \*Homelessness may be episodic, with those at the lowest poverty levels slipping in and out of homelessness;
  - \*The number of homeless beds increased from 275,000 in 1988 to 608,000 in 1996.
- ▶ 13,580 adults and families are homeless in Maricopa County; 452 are estimated to be youth on their own (MAG Continuum of Care Gaps Analysis, 5/00).
- ▶ There are 6,789 shelter beds available; there are 6,791 more beds needed (MAG Continuum of Care Gaps Analysis, 5/00).
- ▶ The fair market monthly rental rate for a 2-bedroom apartment in the metropolitan Phoenix area was \$634 in 1999. A wage earner at the poverty level can afford \$341 per month in rent and utilities.
- ▶ The Arizona Department of Commerce estimates that 25% of Maricopa County's population has a problem finding affordable housing at 30% of their income for rent and utilities.

## ***THREATS TO CHILDREN***

- ✓ Arizona ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of child well being; 50<sup>th</sup> in terms of children with no health insurance; 50<sup>th</sup> in terms of 16-19 year olds who drop out of school and 48<sup>th</sup> in teen

- ✓ pregnancy. (1999 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation.)
- ✓ Inadequate child care ( 13 million children under 6 spend part of the day in child care; only 10% of eligible children receive subsidies)
- ✓ Poverty (1 in 5 children in the U. S. and 275,000 in Arizona - Children's Action Alliance)
- ✓ Abuse and neglect - (3.2 million reports in U.S. in 1997; 14,394 substantiated reports in Arizona in the same time period.)
- ✓ Lack of Health Care (11.1 million in 1998 without health insurance; 335,000 in Arizona - Children's Action Alliance)
- ✓ Violence (2,200 youth in Arizona are arrested for violence crimes and 130 children are killed by gunfire in one year - Children's Action Alliance)
- ✓ Children in the justice system: In 1998, 10,690 juveniles were detained. The most common referrals are curfew violations, shoplifting, probation violations, truancy, marijuana possession, unlawful possession of alcohol, simple assault, domestic violence, runaway and theft (Maricopa County Juvenile Court Center Annual Report, 1998).
- ✓ Children are being referred in greater numbers to the Adult Corrections System - 1047 children in Maricopa County were transferred to Adult Court between July 1, 1997 and March 30,2000. 34% of these youth have no previous juvenile adjudications. Ages at transfer: 13 years old - 3; 14 years old - 41; 15 years old - 126; 16 years old - 292 and 17 years old - 437. 95 % were male. Types of crimes: Prison - violent, property, sex, weapons, drugs. Probation offenses: property, violent, sex, drugs, weapons. Officials at the Arizona Department of Correction express the following needs and concerns: adult oriented culture; bridging the gap of older youth; limited funds for service needs. There are few residential services, neighborhoods now receive notification of relocation of sex offenders, thereby complicating treatment programs for youth; transportation needs; additional funding for services, and need for training of ADOC staff on youth entitlement programs (Arizona Department of Corrections presentation to the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission, May 25, 2000).

### ***THREATS TO ADULTS AND FAMILIES***

- ✓ Domestic violence calls to the Valley's police departments last year totaled almost 100,000.
- ✓ 19,775 women and children were unable to obtain space in a domestic violence shelter
- ✓ DES provided Short Term Crisis Services to 6,852 households in SFY99. These services include utility assistance, rent/mortgage payments, eviction prevention and special needs. Only families eligible for TANF can be served with these funds. (DES 1999 Welfare Reform Annual Report)

### ***WELFARE REFORM***

- ➔ The Arizona Department of Economic Security placed 9,604 cash assistance recipients into jobs in SFY99, at an average wage of \$6.59 (DES 1999 Welfare Reform Annual Report).
- ➔ The cash assistance caseload dropped by 52% between January 1993 and March 1999. In June 1999, there were 33,811 cases, including 12,700 child only cases. In January 2000,

there were 33,631 cases. The average per case payment was \$269.80 and the average payment per recipient was \$104.44. (DES website)

→ DES reports that 65% of those placed did not return to cash assistance.

→ DES reports that 8,333 cases were sanctioned and 6,041 cases were closed due to non-compliance. Compliance is required for work, child support, immunization and school attendance. Approximately 86% of the sanctions were work-related.

→ A number of support services were funded to assist clients to obtain and retain jobs. Those services include training for young fathers, employment transition, domestic violence post shelter training, life skills, post employment education, child care rate increases, expanded child care income eligibility, assistance with transportation, and character education.

→ MAXIMUS, a private firm, is delivering services to cash assistance clients in a pilot project in Maricopa County. This project has placed 2176 clients between April 1999 and March 2000. The pilot project includes four tiers of employment: full time, part time, trial jobs and community placement. The average hourly wage for full and part-time workers was \$7.56. Full time only averaged \$8.02 per hour.

→ Barriers continue to be: child care, transportation and affordable housing.

→ The DES Cash Assistance Exit Study found that people returned to cash assistance because: loss of employment or decreased wages, divorce/separation or moving away from a partner or family member and change in household circumstances.

→ The State of Arizona has used welfare reform funds transferred to SSBG to reduce general fund expenditures in child welfare, rather than to achieve the goals of welfare reform.

→ At the end of 1999, Arizona was predicted to have \$73 million in “rainy day” unallocated TANF funds. The Congress continues to eye the states huge “rainy day” balances as they reduce other federal funds. TANF funds can only serve families with children at 150% of the federal poverty level.

→ Arizona’s cash payment has not been raised since 1992; current TANF benefits are 30.5% of the 1998 federal poverty level (Children’s Action Alliance, Arizona’s Welfare Spending Trends.)

### ***CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE***

Community Information and Referral provides 24-hour telephone access to requests for assistance.

A summary of the numbers of calls and types of requests follows:

- 205,235 calls for service were made in 1999 in Maricopa County; one half of those calls were from the City of Phoenix.
- The top ten calls were for: emergency housing, emergency food, emergency financial assistance, utility assistance, flu shots, donations, landlord/tenant, legal assistance, and domestic violence advocacy.
- CONTACS provides immediate information about the availability of homeless and domestic violence shelter beds. In 1999, there were 18,247 calls for homeless shelters and 7,538 calls for domestic violence shelter.

## ***IDENTIFIED NEEDS***

The most recent comprehensive needs assessment was conducted by the Maricopa County Survey Data Center in 1996-1997. An estimated 49% of the county's household reported they were receiving services, had sought services unsuccessfully or still needed services. The top identified services still needed were:

- ✓ dental (63%)
- ✓ education (18%)
- ✓ medical (17%)
- ✓ information and referral (16%)
- ✓ housing and employment (14% each)

The top services currently received by the respondents included:

- ✓ education (37%)
- ✓ basic needs (31%)
- ✓ medical (24%)
- ✓ transportation and employment (18% each)
- ✓ collective safety (17%)
- ✓ counseling (16%)

## ***TRENDS***

- ▶ Hispanic families are having more children than non-Hispanic families. By the year 2025, it is estimated that 1 in 3 Arizonans will be Hispanic. Children's Action Alliance reports that today's Hispanic children are more likely to be poor, drop out of high school, are less likely to have health insurance, may not speak English well, and may have more babies as teens. Only 4% of Hispanic families are on welfare - most are working at very low wage jobs.
- ▶ Children's Action Alliance makes three recommendations regarding Hispanic families: provide quality child care in the first three years of life; access to education and training; and enhancing services to those families who need them (<http://www.azchildren.org/familia/familiareporttext.htm>).
- ▶ In 1998, more than 250 people per day moved to the Valley - leading to a prediction of the County doubling in population between 1995 and 2005. In 1998, 75,000 new jobs were created, making our economy one of the fastest growing in the nation.
- ▶ The aging of the baby-boom generation will pose challenges to our economy, health care and housing industries. Approximately 21% of our population will be over the age of 65 in 2025 - as compared with 16% today.
- ▶ Low wage jobs are created at a high rate in the Valley, with service sector jobs comprising about 31% of the region's jobs. Employment patterns now include hiring temporary workers, more job mobility, less likelihood of remaining with one employer for an entire career, more need for up-graded training and education at multiple points during a career, more difficulty in accumulating a substantial pension, and less likelihood of the employer providing health coverage.
- ▶ Housing costs are rising at twice the rate of income, making home ownership less likely for

a larger number of people. Market rate rental housing is not providing much in affordability to those making lower wages. Housing demand may also change as more people age and need adapted environments at the same time that family size is getting smaller for the general population. The Hispanic families tend to be larger, but non-Hispanic families are choosing to wait longer to have a fewer number of children; many couples are choosing not to have children at all.

- ▶ The lack of behavioral health services has resulted in two class action law suits for services to seriously mentally ill individuals and to children. Neither court ruling has resulted in substantial changes in these systems. There is virtually no substance abuse treatment available.